

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

5 1. An optical device that receives
incident light from a predetermined path, and
outputs said incident light to one of a plurality of
paths, comprising:

10 a first reflective unit for reflecting
said incident light in a predetermined direction,
and

15 a second reflective unit for receiving
said incident light reflected by said first
reflective unit, and for reflecting said incident
light reflected by said first reflective unit to a
second optical path; wherein said first reflective
unit and said second reflective unit are arranged in
one body, and capable of moving between two
positions, one position being on a first optical
20 path, and the other position being in an evacuation
position that does not intercept said first optical
path.

25

2. The optical device as claimed in claim
1, further comprising a moving unit for carrying out
a parallel movement of said first reflective unit
30 and said second reflective unit between said two
positions.

35

3. The optical device as claimed in claim
1, further comprising a moving unit for carrying out
a rotational movement of said first reflective unit
and said second reflective unit between said two
5 positions.

10 4. The optical device as claimed in any
one of claims 1 through 3, wherein said first
reflective unit and said second reflective unit are
realized by a prism.

15

5. The optical device as claimed in claim
4, wherein said prism is a rhomboid prism.

20

6. The optical device as claimed in any
25 one of claims 1 through 3, wherein said first
reflective unit and said second reflective unit are
configured by two mirrors that are fixed by a
supporting unit.

30

35

7. An information recording and/or reproducing apparatus for recording and/or reproducing information, wherein incident light from a predetermined path is output to one of a plurality of paths based on a kind of medium, comprising:

5 a first reflective unit for reflecting said incident light in a predetermined direction,
10 a second reflective unit for receiving said incident light reflected by said first reflective unit, and for reflecting said incident light reflected by said first reflective unit to a second optical path, and

15 a moving unit for moving said first reflective unit and said second reflective unit between two positions, one position being on a first optical path, and the other position being in an evacuation position that does not intercept said first optical path; and said first reflective unit and said second reflective unit being arranged in
20 one body; wherein,

the kind of said medium is detected, and said moving unit is controlled based on a result of the detection.

25

8. The information recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein
30 said moving unit carries out parallel movement of said first reflective unit and said second reflective unit between said two positions, said first reflective unit and said second reflective unit being arranged in one body.

35

9. The information recording and/or
reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein
said moving unit carries out rotational movement of
5 said first reflective unit and said second
reflective unit between said two positions, said
first reflective unit and said second reflective
unit being arranged in one body.

10

10. The information recording and/or
reproducing apparatus as claimed in any one of
15 claims 7 through 9, wherein said first reflective
unit and said second reflective unit are realized by
a prism.

20

11. The information recording and/or
reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 10,
wherein said prism is a rhomboid prism.

25

12. The information recording and/or
30 reproducing apparatus as claimed in any one of
claims 7 through 9, wherein said first reflective
unit and said second reflective unit are configured
by two mirrors that are fixed by a supporting unit.

35

13. The information recording and/or
reproducing apparatus as claimed in any one of
claims 7 through 12, wherein said moving unit
carries out parallel movement of said first
5 reflective unit and said second reflective unit
between said two positions, said first reflective
unit and said second reflective unit being arranged
in one body.

10

14. The information recording and/or
reproducing apparatus as claimed in any one of
15 claims 7 through 12, wherein said moving unit
carries out rotational movement of said first
reflective unit and said second reflective unit
between said two positions, said first reflective
unit and said second reflective unit being arranged
20 in one body.